

Mr. Speaker, I think I have got some of these countries, here is Kazakhstan—there's a significant amount of oil in this region here. Uzbekistan less oil, Turkmenistan even less. But this amount of oil in this region needs to come through.

There's a pipeline across the Caspian Sea, and then it comes from here into Georgia. This little country here, 4.6 million people, is Georgia. Tbilisi is where I was about a week ago, the capital of Georgia. This square right here is the square through which the pipelines across the Caspian Sea, the central Asian energy, oil and gas, if it's going to go to the west to get out through the Straits there at Istanbul and out into the Mediterranean and out into western Europe, it has to come through Georgia. Putin knows that.

He sits up here and in control of the Russian region looking at this oil that he has next door watching how it can be controlled, and it must come through Georgia. When I met with the Georgians, they said to me, "We always knew he was going to do this. We always knew the Russians would come in and occupy our country," because this square, Georgia, is the square on the chessboard where he can control whether this oil in this region comes into Europe or whether it goes on to the east on over to China, just off the chart here.

A pipeline exists to go from Kazakhstan to China. There's a pipeline that exists from Russia that goes on into Europe, several of them actually, and a pipeline from Russia that goes down into China, Mr. Speaker.

This is where the valve is right here. That's where he can turn it on and he can turn it off, and he can decide if it goes east or if it goes west. If it goes to the east to China, their economy prospers; if it shuts off the oil going to the West, these economies in Europe atrophy.

If he can team up down here with Ahmadinejad and the Straits of Hormuz, and they can threaten to—or close the Straits of Hormuz, they can also decide whether oil goes to the West, the free world, the Western Hemisphere, or whether it is stuck up in here in the Middle Eastern region. That is a powerful position to be in.

If he continues to build this triumvirate—which is, I believe, Putin, Ahmadinejad, and Hugo Chavez—Chavez's oil, he can shut that off as well. He can decide whether to sell it or not and who's going to get it.

So if you put those three guys at the same table, Putin, Ahmadinejad and Hugo Chavez, they would have control—presuming the Straits of Hormuz could be shut down by the Iranians or with Russian help—they would have control of more than 50 percent of the world's export oil supply. They could decide oil prices for the world: running them up, allowing them to go down and/or they could decide whether that oil actually goes to those economies.

They could decide whether the free world's economy would atrophy or whether it would prosper.

If you're in a position like that and you've had the lesson that Putin has had, he lost the Monopoly game and he checkmated his chess game, because their economy collapsed. He's learned the lesson. Now he's playing Monopoly and he's playing chess, and he's sitting on this square in Georgia. He's sitting on a massive amount of oil. He has a diabolical plan, and we're Americans sitting here naively arguing that well, we don't want to develop any American energy.

Mr. Speaker, we must open up all American energy now. Every form. It's imperative. Whether we're going to be a superpower 10 or 20 years from now depends on the decisions we make in this Congress today. All energy all the time. Drill ANWR, drill the Outer Continental Shelf, develop the oil from the oil shale areas in the West, open up all of our natural gas. Let's do coal, let's do nuclear, let's do ethanol, let's do biodiesel, let's do wind, let's do solar, all forms of American energy.

Let's save our freedom, Mr. Speaker.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today until 2:30 p.m. on account of his primary election.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McDERMOTT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. McDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ELLISON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KAGEN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LATTA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, September 17.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, September 17.

Mr. KELLER of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, September 11 and 12.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HALL of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 11, 2008, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8183. A letter from the Captain, U.S. Navy Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting notice of the completion of a public-private competition for administrative support services, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2462(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

8184. A letter from the Principal Deputy, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Daryl W. Burke, Scott M. Hanson and Jeffrey G. Lofgren to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8185. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning an amendment to Part 121 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), promulgated pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, 22 U.S.C. 2778 et seq.; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

8186. A letter from the Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Year 2007 Inventory of Commercial Activities, as required by the Federal Activities Reform Act of 1997, Pub. L. 105-270; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8187. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's report entitled, "Federal Appointment Authorities: Cutting through the Confusion," pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8188. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the 2006 Annual Report of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 3766(c) and 3789e; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8189. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's quarterly report from the Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties as required by section 803 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, Pub. L. 110-53, 121 Stat. 266, 360; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8190. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Standards; Engine Bird Ingestion [Docket No.: FAA-2006-25375; Amendment No. 33-23] (RIN: 2120-A173) received August 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8191. A letter from the Attorney Advisor Regulations and Administrative Law United States Coast Guard, DHS, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Maine; Sector Northern New England August Swim Events. [Docket No. USCG-2008-0695] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.